



**Date and Time:** Friday, May 12, 2023 1:27:00PM PDT

**Job Number:** 197010693

## Document (1)

1. [\*Climate doc aims to create change, not preach to converted; Future's Past\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "doom" and ("climate" or "eco")

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Sources: National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post)(Canada);  
All Content Types: News; Timeline: Jan 01, 2018 to May 11,  
2023; Geography by Document: North America; Geography  
by Document: Canada

## ***Climate doc aims to create change, not preach to converted; Future's Past***

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

April 9, 2019 Tuesday

All\_but\_Toronto Edition

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**Section:** ARTS &; LIFE; Pg. B2

**Length:** 682 words

**Byline:** Laura Kane, The Canadian Press

**Dateline:** VANCOUVER

### **Body**

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Academy Award-winning actor Jeff Bridges wanted to avoid making a climate change documentary that only preached to the converted - he wanted to reach and speak to people who didn't already care about the issue.

That's why *Living in the Future's Past*, produced and narrated by Bridges, deliberately avoids heaping guilt upon viewers or hammering them with warnings of impending doom, the Big Lebowski star said.

"I think the fear makes you throw up your hands and feel like it's too late, or think it's going to trickle down from the government," Bridges, 69, said in an interview. "But I don't think we can wait for the government to be enlightened with what our scientists are telling us. I think it's got to trickle up, if it's trickling anywhere. I think we all have to take action."

The film is part of a rising tide of documentaries that aim to wake up viewers to the realities of climate change. But as governments, companies and individuals remain reluctant to act, it's fair to question how much of an impact movies can have.

Bridges wanted *Living in the Future's Past* to take a fresh approach. When he first discussed collaborating with director Susan Kucera, the pair discovered they were interested in why humans as a species were responding the way they were to climate change.

As a result, the film interrogates how evolution, history and psychology have shaped our reaction to the unfolding crisis.

Bridges likes to use a metaphor inspired by, Buckminster Fuller, who invented a small rudder called a trim tab that helps turn a larger rudder on a ship.

The tab symbolizes how the individual is connected to society, he said. "We all can make a huge difference, just like that little rudder on the big rudder," Bridges said.

The film showcases a wide range of prominent scientists and authors. yet one of the most refreshing voices is former republican congressman Bob Inglis, who argues caring about the environment is not at odds with a conservative or religious identity.

"He has this idea that if you're going to go to a group of people who are self-identified in one way, who better to talk to that group than someone from that group?" said Kucera. "We're still kind of tribal that way, and so that's what he does."

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The beautifully shot film will screen this week as part of elements Film Festival at Vancouver's Telus World of Science. Also screening are local films including Coal Valley and Plastic Beach and international features such as Queen Without Land.

Carol Linnitt, who co-founded online news outlet The Narwhal and directed Coal Valley, said documentaries allow storytellers to delve deeper into an issue.

"We live in a fast-paced, attention-driven world these days. Often, the dry written word sitting static on a page may not be what's going to do it for a lot of people," she said.

Of course, it also matters who sees these films. Bridges said he was excited to be working on a curriculum that would allow his movie to be taught in schools, where it would encourage kids to take action and use their imaginations to solve the problem.

Keith Scholey, series producer of the lush Netflix nature documentary Our Planet, said the filmmakers created a website, OurPlanet.com, to give viewers more details about solutions, and they're also screening the show for global decision-makers.

"So far, we have been able to present Our Planet to the World economic Forum in davos and next week will do the same to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank," he said.

Still, humans are so apathetic about **climate** change that one psychologist has catalogued all the reasons people don't take action. robert Gifford of the university of Victoria describes them as the "dragons of inaction."

"The less polite word might be excuses or justifications," he deadpanned.

The most important factor in persuading people to care about **climate** change, however, is to demonstrate how it intersects with an issue they care about, such as their health, children or local community, he added.

"There is no magic message for everybody." !@COPYRIGHT=© 2019 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Document-Type:** News

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** ACADEMY AWARDS (90%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (90%); CELEBRITIES (90%); **CLIMATE** CHANGE (90%); CLIMATOLOGY (90%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (90%); FILM (89%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (88%); ARTS FESTIVALS & EXHIBITIONS (79%); TRENDS & EVENTS (79%); INTERVIEWS (78%); CONSERVATISM (75%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (74%); FILM FESTIVALS (73%); MARINE MAMMALS (73%); RELIGION (73%); PSYCHOLOGY (69%); academy,actor,bridges,wanted,avoid,making (%)

**Industry:** ACADEMY AWARDS (90%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (90%); CELEBRITIES (90%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (90%); FILM (89%); ARTS FESTIVALS & EXHIBITIONS (79%); MOVIE INDUSTRY (79%); FILM FESTIVALS (73%); PSYCHOLOGY (69%)

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**Person:** JEFF BRIDGES (79%); BOB INGLIS (50%)

**Geographic:** VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA (74%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (74%); CANADA (91%)

**Load-Date:** April 9, 2019

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